

at least one retractable elongate member, said elongate member mounted for movement between a retracted position where said elongate member is disengaged from at least one of said rotary bodies and an extended position where said elongate member engages both said first and second rotary bodies; and

[a rotary assembly having first and second rotary bodies spaced to receive ribbon stock therebetween, said elongate member engaging both first and second rotary bodies when in the extended position,] said rotary assembly configured for arcuate motion relative to said guide [to move said elongate member] from a first position toward at least one second position to fold a portion of said ribbon stock by said elongate member.

² 11. (Amended) The metallic ribbon stock folding apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein a retractable elongate member can be sequentially positioned on opposite sides of said [guide] longitudinal axis.

⁸ 17. (Amended) A method of folding metallic ribbon stock comprising the steps of:

transferring ribbon stock through a passage formed by a guide, said passage defining a longitudinal axis;

providing at least one retractable elongate member;

[moving said elongate member between a retracted position and an extended position relative to the guide;]

providing at least one rotary assembly having first and second rotary bodies spaced to receive ribbon stock therebetween;

[engaging] moving said elongate member between a retracted position where said elongate member is disengaged from at least one of said rotary bodies to an extended position to engage both first and second rotary bodies with said elongate member [when said elongate member is in the extended position]; and

rotating said rotary assembly in an arcuate motion relative to said guide from a first position toward at least one second position to fold a portion of ribbon stock by said elongate member.

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21. (Amended) A system for folding metallic ribbon stock comprising:

a supply of ribbon stock;

a frame;

a guide mounted in said frame, said guide having a passage therein, said passage defining a longitudinal axis;

a transferring unit for controlled transfer of said ribbon stock through said passage in said guide;

a cutter for cutting said ribbon stock at a predetermined location;

at least one rotary assembly having first and second rotary bodies spaced to receive ribbon stock therebetween;

at least one retractable elongate member said elongate member mounted for movement between a retracted position where said elongate member is disengaged from at least one of said rotary bodies and an extended position [relative to the guide] where said elongate member engages both said first and second rotary bodies; and